

## CLAIMS

I claim:

1. A tensioner for selectively tensioning individual parallel strips of sheet material traveling along a pass line from a slitter to a recoiler, said tensioner interposed across said pass line and about said strips between said slitter and recoiler, said tensioner comprising:  
a first engagement member transversely spanning one side of said strips;  
a second engagement member transversely spanning the opposite side of said strips, said second engagement member formed into a plurality of individual segments with at least one of said segments aligned with each of said strips;  
an actuator associated with each said segment of said second engagement member, each actuator for individually urging its said segment toward said first engagement member into a closed position to selectively compress each strip between said first and second engagement members.
2. The tensioner of claim 1 and a support for said segments to allow each segment to shift independently of the other said segments toward said first engagement member.
3. The tensioner of claim 2 wherein each segment is shiftable between an open position vertically spaced below said strips and said closed position contacting said strips.
4. The tensioner of claim 3 wherein said segments have transversely aligned holes through said segments, a fixed rod extending through said holes with a clearance, whereby each segment is supported by a said actuator when said segment is in its said closed position and each segment is carried by said rod when in its said open position.

5. The tensioner of claim 4 wherein said first engagement member is shiftable between a vertically spaced position above said strips and an engagement position in contact with said material.
6. A tensioner for selectively tensioning individual parallel strips of sheet material traveling along a pass line from a slitter to a recoiler, said tensioner comprising:
  - a first engagement member for transversely spanning said pass line;
  - a second engagement member opposed to said first engagement member for transversely spanning said pass line, said second engagement member including segments transversely alignable with said strips;
  - a plurality of actuators to selectively urge said segments toward said first engagement member for selectively compressing said strips between said first and second engagement members.
7. The tensioner of claim 6 wherein said first engagement member includes a plurality of second segments for rotatively engaging said strips, each said second segment aligned with a said strip.
8. The tensioner of claim 7 wherein said first segments are rotatively fixed for frictional engagement with said strips.
9. A method of recoiling parallel strips of slit coils having a plurality of thicknesses comprising the steps:
  - a) passing said strips between opposing engagement members carried by a tensioner, one of said engagement surfaces being segmented with at least one of said segments aligned with each of said strips; and,

- b) selectively compressing each said strip between the other of said engagement members and said aligned segment to apply a selected tension to each strip as it is wound upon the recoiler.